

FEMA

Public Assistance Grants

- Emergency Work
- Permanent Work

Emergency Work

Emergency Work is eligible for assistance when it is necessary to:

- Eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, and safety; and
- Eliminate an immediate hazard which threatens additional damage to or destruction of improved property.

Emergency Work

- Limited to the essential measures required to protect against a similar event expected to occur not less frequently than every five years, or to restore the protection that existed immediately prior to the event, whichever is lesser;
- Must benefit the community-at-large; and
- Must have a favorable benefit to cost ratio.

Emergency Work on Beaches

- Emergency work is typically the construction of a sand berm to protect against additional damage from a 5-year storm.
- Sand berms are not intended to be permanent, only to provide protection from immediate threats, and to allow the repair, reinforcement, and/or relocation of improved property.

Emergency Work on Beaches

- Emergency sand berms average 6 CY/LF above the 5-year flood elevation.
- Emergency sand berms are typically constructed with sand recovered from the low-tide beach and over-wash areas.
- Sand can be imported for the berms if a benefit-cost analysis is performed to demonstrate the cost effectiveness.

Emergency Work on Beaches

- Areas of eligible emergency work are typically long stretches of improved property at risk.
- It is generally not cost-effective or beneficial to provide emergency work to isolated improvements.
- All Emergency work must be completed within 6 months of the declared event.

Permanent Work

- FEMA provides grants for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities on the basis of their design as they existed immediately prior to the disaster.
- Permanent work to restore or replace a natural beach is not eligible for FEMA assistance.
- A beach is considered an eligible facility when that beach has been improved and regularly maintained in an improved condition.

Improved Beach

- The beach was constructed by the placement of imported sand (of proper grain size) to a designed elevation, width, and slope; and
- A maintenance program involving periodic renourishment with imported sand must have been established and adhered to by the applicant; and
- The maintenance program must preserve a portion of the original nourishment as the improvement.

Improved Beach

- As-needed nourishments, or renourishments when the beach has eroded to a critical condition (all of the original nourishment gone), are NOT eligible maintenance programs.
- Renourishments must be to the project design; partial renourishments or “hot-spot” nourishments are NOT considered maintenance of the improved project.

Permanent Work on Beaches

To document eligibility, the applicant must provide the following data:

- All design studies, plans, construction documents, and as-built for the original nourishment;
- All studies, plans, construction documents, and as-built for every renourishment;
- Documentation and details of the maintenance program; and
- Pre-and post-storm profiles that extend at least to the depth of closure (-15 to -20 feet).

Permanent Work on Beaches

- The amount of sand eligible for replacement funding is limited to the amount lost as a result of the incident event.
- Pre- and post-storm profiles are used to determine the eligible volume of sand.
- If pre-storm profiles are not available, the estimated erosion from the design study and renourishment history can be used to determine a pre-storm condition.

Permanent Work on Beaches

- Even though FEMA only funds replacement of the sand lost to the incident event, the applicant needs to renourish the project to the design as part of the maintenance eligibility.
- The cost of the additional sand (eroded prior to the incident event) is not eligible for FEMA funding.